

STATEMENT OF SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA  
Senate Committee of Indian Affairs  
Oversight Hearing on Regulation of Class III Gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act

September 21, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today's oversight hearing on the regulation of Class III Gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act follows the recent decision by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia regarding the case, *Colorado River Indian Tribes v. National Indian Gaming Commission* (NIGC). As we address the regulatory authority of NIGC, I believe that it is important that we preserve the sovereignty of Indian nations, and provide them with the necessary support so that in the exercise of their sovereignty they can help themselves economically, politically and governmentally.

I thank the witnesses here today and look forward to their testimony.